

them, instead of the wonted thistle-down which is unavailable this year. There seems, however, to be a fatal fascination for her in the window, and especially in a lower corner pane, to which she now devotes her principal attention. Hour after hour we have found her there, until it seems as if it would be a mercy to drive her away. She has great trouble with her foothold. One leaf seemed well located except for the fact that another leaf tickled the back of her neck. That leaf must be punished! Again and again she flew at it in righteous indignation, and it has been drubbed so severely by the irate little beak that nothing but stumpy ribs remain.

Once we came upon her when she had blundered inside. She was zealously engaged in finding the hole she got in at, and had apparently forgotten her spider-web hunt. In her excitement she tried every pane but the right one. Cobwebs caught her, but she indignantly plucked them off. One, by an irony of fate, attached itself to her tail, and from it a large yellow moth depended. The little bird made frantic efforts to dislodge this disgrace and was finally successful. For what self respecting bird would endure to be tagged by a moth? Finally she gave up hope of exit through the window, and fluttered wildly about the room, uttering plaintive cries. Faster and faster went the circles until I feared Goldikins would come to grief, but fortunately, the door being now open, she dashed out into freedom. "Thus endeth," thought I, and I stole away to write her up. But no! It was not five minutes till that silly creature returned to that window, and there she has been for the last half hour—as she is at this moment—inanelly pecking on the glass. The mystery of glass is evidently addling her poor little brain! What ought I to do about it?

W. L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

---

## SUMMER BIRD STUDY.

---

The question has often been raised, What can be done in the way of field study of birds during the depressing summer months? There are some serious difficulties, it is true. There is the annual scamper to a summer resort, the debility caused by excessive heat, a scorching sun in the fields and countless but not debilitated insects in the wood. To those who find it necessary to seek a summer resort I have nothing to say, more than the suggestion that camping in some unfrequented place is both healthful and restful. It has been my great privilege to conduct a class of some thirty-four students in bird study during the term of our Sum-

mer School. The term is now so nearly at an end that it is possible to form some idea of the success or failure of this experiment. The object sought in this class was to so familiarize the students with our more common birds that they would be able to give intelligent guidance to the children under their charge in the school room. This was chiefly accomplished by field study, with, as well as without, the teacher. But the method is of far less interest than the result. Notwithstanding many days of excessive heat, and frequent interruptions by rain (an unusual occurrence in summer here), some eighty species of birds have been recorded, fully fifty of them many times, and upwards of forty have sung for us repeatedly, while the nesting of fully twenty-five has been studied satisfactorily. Excellent opportunities have been afforded for the study of young plumages and the care of the young, while much has been learned of the molt and of the roosting habits.

The insects and heat, while causing more or less inconvenience, have not proven serious obstacles. The practice of long walks and long hours of field work has resulted not only in the ability to do more of it but to enjoy it so that it has become a pleasure, as the many expressed regrets that the term is so nearly closed indicate. The term's work has impressed upon me the fact that summer bird-study is both possible and profitable, while at no other time can the songs be studied so well, for then they are heard singly and the singers can be approached more readily. There is almost no medley of bird music from which the different songs must be separated out.

The keen and sustained interest exhibited by this class of both teachers and students gives me great hope for the future of the birds. In the near future there will be greater strides made in the dissemination of "Acquaintance with the birds" among school-children, a right acquaintance, than the whole past has seen. Let the good work go on.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

---

## JULY NESTING.

---

As we come to count up when the month is only a little more than half over, it seems remarkable the number of birds we have found nesting here near Oberlin, in July. Of course we expect to run across some belated nesters every season, but as Mr. Jones and I compare notes we find that we have recorded eggs belonging to fourteen species of birds in only three days afield this month—and that too, without paying any particular attention to nests. Is the nesting season later than usual this